(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating the major causes behind the eruption of communal violence, the number of deaths, if any and the estimated loss of public and private property as a result thereof and also the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) According to the Government of Maharashtra, a writ petition was filed by Shiv Sena in the High Court challenging the Mayoral election at Aurangabad which was set for hearing on 17th May, 1988. However, the hearing was postponed by the High Court and a group of Shiv Sainiks on the way back from the Court had heated exchanges with a sugar-cane juice vender which led to cases of stabbing, arson and stone pelting. Subsequently, the communal violence spread to the rural areas of the district like Bidkin and Paithan necessitating police firing. In the communal violence at Aurangabad on 17th May, 1988, 11 persons were killed and 182 received injuries, out of which four persons were killed and four persons were injured in police firing. Property worth Rs. 29.55 lakhs (Public Rs. 0.04 lakhs—Private 29.51 lakhs) was destroyed. In the communal violence at Paithan on 19th May, 1988, seven persons were killed and 12 were injured. There was a loss of private property worth Rs. 6.85 lakhs.

Immediately on eruption of communal violence, the Union Home Minister discussed the matter with the Chief Minister, Maharashtra and both of them visited the riot affected areas. The State Government rushed additional police re-inforcement and the communal situation was brought under control. Various measures to the State Government and it is hoped that a climate of communal harmony would prevail. None-the-less, a close vigil is being maintained on the communal situation in the State as a whole.

Decline of population of swamp Deer

782. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the poputlon of swamp deer species has declined in India;

(b) whether Government are aware that hunters often shoot deer on the pretext of killing vermins, wild boars and porcupines; and

(c) if so, what action Government propose to take to stop the killing of deer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) No, Sir, not in recent years.

(b) No such reports have been received.

(c) Does not arise.

Menacing effects of drugs

783. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether experts have pointed out that the future of the country is endangered due to the rising trend of drug addiction and also due to the induction of deadly drugs like smack and heroin into country by external forces which want to destabilise India; and

(b) if so, what are the details of action plan prepared by Government to check drug trafficking and also the details of the directives issued to the States to

check this menace and what assistance has been provided to the State Governments in meeting this threat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) India, lying as it does in a strategic position on the Asian Sub-Continent, juxtaosed between the 'Golden Triangle' and the 'Golden Crescent' is increasingly being exploited by drug traffickers as a transit route. The spill-over of drugs from such traffic has caused drug addiction, especially in the entry and exit points of Delhi and Bombay. This has also been indicated by the International Narcotics Control Board, in its annual reports, Government have, however, not received any reports from any expert regarding "induction of deadly drugs" into the country "by external forces which want to destabilise India"

Government have initiated various aggressive counter-measures against drug trafficking which *inter alia*, include strengthening of the preventive and intelligence machinery, specially along the international borders, adoption of a liberalised reward scheme for officers and informers, strengthening of bilateral co-operation between neighbouring countries (including regional co-operation under the aegis of SAARC). Special narcotics cells have been created in all the Customs and Central Excise Collectorates all over the country as well as in the State police organisations.

Further, the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Ordinance has been promulgated by the President on 4-7-1988. Under this Ordinance, 144 detention orders have been issued and 111 persons have been detained as on 27-7-1988, thus immobilising them from indulging in illicit traffic in drugs.

The States have already been directed to be vigilant and take necessary remedial measures against the threat posed by drug pushers, especially in the vicinity of schools, educational institutions, etc. The expenditure incurred by the State Government on payment of rewards to their officers and informers are also reimbursable by the Central Government. The States have also been requested to set up Special Courts for trial of drug related offences exclusively.

Fire in Vishal Bhawan, Nehru Place

784. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that devastating fire broke out twice within five days in Vishal Bhawan in Nehru Place complex built by DDA causing intensive loss;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating the result of the inquiry made into the fire incidents;

(c) what action has been taken by Government to ensure that all the high rise buildings including Government buildings in the Capital are provided with adequate fire-fighting equipments within a reasonable period to meet the situation; and

(d) what action has been taken/proposed to be taken by Government against non-compliance of the rules/directives in this regard and to fix responsibility for the laxity in the implementation of the rules?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A medium category fire incident occured on 16 June, 1988 in Vishal Bhawan building, 95, Nehru Place, involving office premises on the 8th floor. A serious fire incident also occurred on 21 June, 1988 in the same building involving shops at ground floor, commercial area on part of first floor and elevators. No enquiry has been ordered into the fire incidents. Police authorities have sealed the building under the Delhi Police Act. The Chief Fire Officer has also issued orders that the building will remain sealed in the interest of public safety, till such time the inbuilt fire protection arrangements are installed.